

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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FOR: MR. VEST

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TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: NYT ARTICLE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NYT ARTICLE BY CLYDE FARNSWORTH,
NOVEMBER 2, 1975, DATELINE PARIS, REPEAT DATELINE PARIS:
QUOTE: PARIS, NOV. 1 - THE UNITED STATES HAS RUN INTO
HOSTILITY FROM ITS WEST EUROPEAN ALLIES IN NEGOTIATIONS
FOR BETTER SAFEGUARD IN THE EXPORT OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY.

SEVEN SUPPLIER COUNTRIES - BRITAIN, CANADA, FRANCE, WEST
GERMANY, JAPAN, THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES -
BEGAN TALKS LAST SPRING TO TRY TO TIGHTEN CONTROLS TO
PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL INTO WEAPONS.

THE SECRET CONVERSATIONS, THE URGENCY OF WHICH WAS UNDER-
STOOD BY MOSCOW'S PARTICIPATION, WERE THE RESULT OF THE
SURPRISE DETONATION OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE IN INDIA LAST YEAR.

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THE EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL WAS THE PLUTONIUM OBTAINED AS A

WASTE PRODUCT IN A REACTOR SUPPLIED BY CANADA. THE REACTOR WAS INTENDED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

THE SEVEN ARE RECONVENING NEXT WEEK IN LONDON. IN THE MEANTIME, BOTH FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY HAVE CONCLUDED SALES

THAT THE UNITED STATES THINKS HAVE INCREASED THE DANGER OF A SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

FUEL CENTERS PROPOSED

IN ADDITION TO PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN DEFENSES OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS AGAINST SABOTAGE AND TIGHTEN PROCEDURES GOVERNING TRANSPORT OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS, THE LONDON NEGOTIATORS ARE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CENTERS.

THESE ARE INTENDED TO BECOME THE POINTS FOR COLLECTING AND STORING THE PLUTONIUM THAT IS TAKEN OUT OF SPENT FUEL RODS WHEN THE FUEL IS REPROCESSED.

SUCH CENTERS WOULD REDUCE THE RISK OF PLUTONIUM TRANSFERS INTO EXPLOSIVE DEVICES, ACCORDING TO THE AMERICANS.

THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY IN VIENNA ALREADY CARRIES OUT AN INSPECTION PROGRAM, BUT SOME FORM OF PARALLEL SUPERVISION IS DEEMED ESSENTIAL BY THE UNITED STATES.

THE PROBLEMS ARE UNDERScoreD IN A STUDY BY THE VIENNA AGENCY, PREDICTING THE INSTALLATION OF 356 NUCLEAR GENERATING STATIONS IN THE THIRD WORLD BY 1990.

NEITHER FRANCE NOR WEST GERMANY SEES MUCH HOPE IN GETTING THE REGIONAL CENTERS OPERATING SOON. QUESTIONS OF WHERE THEY WOULD BE SITUATED, WHO WOULD OWN THEM AND CONTROL THEM REMAIN UNANSWERED.

RESTRAINT IS OPPOSED

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THE TWO COUNTRIES ALSO REJECT SUGGESTIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES THAT THEY SHOULD RESTRAIN THEIR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS WHILE NEW PROCEDURES ARE BEING WORKED OUT.

FRENCH SOURCES SAY THAT FRANCE IS HOSTILE TO ANY ACTIONS THAT WOULD TEND TO FREEZE THE CIRCULATION OF KNOWLEDGE OR THE SALE OF TECHNOLOGY.

DESPITE AMERICAN OBJECTIONS, WEST GERMANY WENT AHEAD EARLIER THIS YEAR WITH THE SALE OF WHAT AMOUNTS TO A FULL-SCALE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY TO BRAZIL. THE UNITED STATES FEARED THIS MIGHT STIMULATE EFFORTS BY ARGENTINA AND WOULD LEAD TO ATOMIC WEAPONS COMPETITION IN LATIN AMERICA.

MORE RECENTLY THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF AN IMPENDING FRENCH SALE OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO SOUTH KOREA. THE FRENCH HAVE REBUFFED THE CRITICISM.

BUT WHAT HAS PARTICULARLY ANNOYED THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES WAS AN EDITORIAL IN THE NEW YORK TIMES ON WEDNESDAY, ACCUSING FRANCE OF TAKING MANKIND "A LONG STEP TOWARD WORLDWIDE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS - AND ULTIMATE DISASTER" BY SELLING THE NUCLEAR MATERIAL TO SOUTH KOREA.

FRENCH OFFICIALS DEFENDED THE TRANSACTION ON THE GROUND THAT ONLY A PILOT PLANT FOR TRAINING PERSONNEL WAS INVOLVED THAT SOUTH KOREA HAD AGREED TO INSPECTION BY THE VIENNA AGENCY AND, IN ANY EVENT, HAD ALREADY BOUGHT NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS FROM THE WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORPORATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

ONE OF FRANCE'S LARGEST MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, PECHINEY-SAINT GOBAIN, WON THE SOUTH KOREAN CONTRACT.

SOME OF THE CONFLICT APPARENTLY REPRESENTS BATTLES BETWEEN THE MULTINATIONALS FOR BIGGER SHARES OF THE GROWING INTERNATIONAL MARKET IN NUCLEAR GOODS.

UNQUOTE.
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